

FACT SHEET

DIRECT FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES

ACTION

- On May 6, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final amendments to the national emission standards that reduce toxic air pollutants from iron and steel foundries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems. Foundries manufacture castings by pouring molten iron or steel melted in a furnace into a mold of a desired shape.
- EPA's direct final amendments clarify the existing work practice standards for scrap certification and scrap inspection/selection plans. Clarification of the standards will reduce compliance uncertainties and improve understanding of the rule requirements. EPA is issuing these amendments to resolve certain issues raised by industry trade associations after promulgation of the rule in 2004.
- The direct final amendments address issues concerning multiple scrap acquisition plans; restrictions on metal ingots, oil filters, and organic liquids; use of materials that have been cleaned or processed by the scrap supplier prior to shipment; and the ability to perform inspections at the scrap supplier's facility.
- EPA is publishing the amendments as a direct final rule because the changes are considered noncontroversial, and adverse comments are not expected.
- EPA will accept comment on a parallel proposal of the amendments for 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register* (45 days if a public hearing is requested). If no significant, adverse comments are filed, the direct final amendments will become effective 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The air toxics emitted from foundries contain metals such as lead and manganese and numerous organic compounds, including benzene, dioxin, and formaldehyde. These air toxic emissions are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancer and disorders of the respiratory, reproductive, and central nervous systems.
- The direct final amendments do not change the stringency of the existing standards or materially change the rule requirements. No health, environmental, energy, or cost impacts will occur as a result of the direct final amendments.

BACKGROUND

- In the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress directed EPA to use a “technology-based” approach to reduce emissions of air toxics from major sources of air pollution. Under this approach, all major sources must meet air toxic emission standards reflecting application of the maximum achievable control technology.
- The existing standards, issued in April 2004, establish emission limits for different types of process equipment in addition to work practice requirements which minimize the amount of contaminants contained in charge materials. When implemented in early 2005, the standards are expected to reduce air toxic emissions from foundry operations by more than 800 tons per year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the direct final amendments and parallel proposal, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the amendments, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364 or cavender.kevin@epa.gov.
- Send any comments on the amendments (in duplicate if possible) to: NESHAP for Iron and Steel Foundries Docket, EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. EPA West (6102T), Room B-108, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20460, Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0034. You may also submit comments and data through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Agency website at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, or electronic mail (e-mail) at a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket No. OAR-2002-0034. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect^(R) file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket No. OAR-2002-0034). You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Do not submit confidential business information (CBI) by e-mail. See the *Federal Register* notice for more information on how to handle the submittal of CBI.